

## SFA IT Investment Management

SFA has put into actual practice the spirit and the intent of the provisions of the Information Technology Reform Act of 1996 covering information technology capital investment planning. This started two years ago, and continues.

SFA's Investment Review Board members also constitute the SFA Management Council, and they work the SFA Investment Management Process week in and week out. This process, described in the attachment, has become an integral part of the way SFA manages its budget. SFA selects projects for funding that have the greatest impact on the achievement of SFA's business objectives: reducing unit costs, and improving the satisfaction of customers and employees.

SFA's Investment Management Process involves its business process owners, its technology and financial experts in constant collaborative discussions. As a result of this collaboration, business process owners acquire a greater understanding of technology, and technical staff acquire increased knowledge of business processes. At the end of the day, the entire Investment Review Board/Management Council gains a greater understanding, appreciation and mastery of the budget process. The process of collaborative decision-making allows SFA's management team to make constant trade-offs between operations and capital investment; between people and equipment; and between long-term modernization projects and short-term initiatives.

SFA's Investment Management Process is open for all in SFA and the Department to see and understand. Business cases are vetted within SFA operating units before they are presented to the Investment Review Board as a request for funding. Each business case documents the impact of the proposed initiative on Department of Education enterprise-level systems, allowing officers of the Department of Education to contribute to all investment decisions impacting those systems. The funding decisions are well-documented, and are posted on the SFA Intranet. Formal quarterly meetings of the Investment Review Board are attended by the Department's Chief Information Officer, and Budget Director.

The attachment outlines SFA's Information Technology Investment Management Process. It fully complies with the ITMRA and serves as a model for others to follow.

CIO/IRB Activities SFANet (Intranet) page:  
<http://sfanet/cio/irbactivities/index.html>